



THOUSANDS OF GALLONS A YEAR:

One thousand industrial spills happen each year in Ontario. About 600 are reported to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the rest to other federal, provincial and municipal agencies.

The 600 spills handled by the Ministry in 1979 involved about 500,000 gallons of oils, gasoline, toxic chemicals and other potentially hazardous materials which call for immediate action. Another 400,000 gallons of less harmful liquids and significant quantities of solid and gaseous contaminants are also dealt with.

To Environment Ontario, spill prevention and prompt effective response to all environmental emergencies are important.

Spill Prevention:

The Ministry works with industries, professional associations, municipalities, harbour commissions and other groups on training programs in spill prevention and developing contingency plans—effective blueprints for action to contain and clean up spills.

What Are We Protecting?

In the words of The Environmental Protection Act, Environment Ontario has a mandate for action on any spill which:

- (a) causes or is likely to cause impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it;

- (b) causes or is likely to cause injury or damage to property or to plant or animal life;
- (c) causes or is likely to cause harm or material discomfort to any person;
- (d) adversely affects or is likely to adversely affect the health of any person;
- (e) impairs or is likely to impair the safety of any person; or
- (f) renders or is likely to render any property or plant or animal life unfit for use by man;
- (g) causes or is likely to cause loss of enjoyment of normal use of property; or
- (h) interferes or is likely to interfere with the normal conduct of business.

Bill 24—For Fast and Effective Assistance

The Hon. Harry C. Parrott, Ontario's Minister of the Environment proposed major changes to The Environmental Protection Act in the Legislature in December 1978. This progressive, new legislation incorporated suggestions from a broad range of informed and concerned individuals, industries and organizations consulted.



Bill 24 was approved by the Ontario Legislature late in 1979. These amendments to The Environmental Protection Act set out the policy and intention of the Ontario government.

- Any person authorized or required to do cleanup will have the right to enter and work on public or private land to get the job done.

What Can You Do?

When you see a spill of any chemical liquid or solid which could be dangerous to the environment:

- Note all you can about the source.
- Report the spill immediately and in detail to the nearest office of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. (look in the blue pages of your telephone book)
- We'll take it from there.

In describing the purpose of Bill 24, Dr. Parrott told the Legislature:

"This legislation is unequalled in Canada. We hope it will reduce the number of spills. We know it will speed cleanup, reduce potential damage and assist any injured party by placing initial responsibility on those who own and control pollutants."

We think that says it all for the effect and benefits of Ontario's spill legislation.

Harry Parrott



Ministry
of the
Environment

Hon. Harry C. Parrott, D.D.S.,
Minister

Graham W. S. Scott, Q.C.,
Deputy Minister

Government
Publications
EV
-2001
**ACCIDENTS
HAPPEN**

PORT MAITLAND:--CREWS ARE WORK-
ING DAY AND NIGHT TO CONTAIN
SULPHURIC ACID SPILLED IN A
PLANT ACCIDENT HERE

TORONTO:--TRAFFIC BACKED UP
TODAY AT RUSH HOUR AS GASOLINE
FROM AN OVER-TURNED TRUCK
FLOWED ACROSS THE PARKWAY

-DEAD AND DYING FISH
IN THE RIVER AND LAKE
AFTER HUNDREDS OF GALLONS
FUEL OIL SPILLED

MISSISSAUGA:--A TANK CAR, TOPPLED
IN AN INFERNO OF EXPLODING AND
TURNING TANKERS, THREATENS
RESIDENTS OF THIS CITY WITH
DEADLY CHLORINE

That's what Bill 24 is all about—
dealing with emergencies, large and
small, which require the effective spill
control provisions of Ontario's
Environmental Protection Act.